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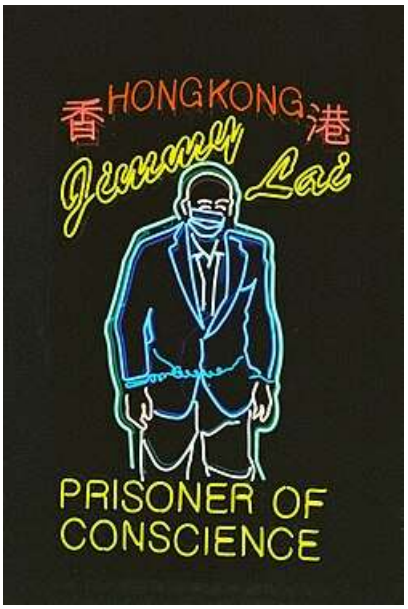
# Jimmy Lai in Chains




**Jimmy Lai in Chains** is a life-size animated neon sign of jailed Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai (Lai Chee-ying 黎智英).

## Background

The neon sign was created by Melbourne neon artist Steven Cole and includes an unchained outline of Jimmy Lai before it animates to Jimmy Lai in chains.

The neon sign was exhibited outdoors at Sydney Town Hall, Australia on 14,16,28,29,30 September, 1,7,13 October and 18 December 2023.[1][2][3][4][5][6][7]

The exhibition of the Jimmy Lai in Chains neon sign at Sydney Town Hall was an official Amnesty International event.[8]

From 17 September to 14 October 2023 the neon sign was also displayed in a Sydney City Council owned shop window at 303 Pitt St, Sydney CBD.

From 18 December 2023 to 17 August 2024 the neon sign was displayed in a shop window at 459 King St, Newtown, Sydney.

From 21 August to 14 September 2024 the neon sign was exhibited at the 'Divided' exhibition at Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios, North Sydney.[9]

On 22 October 2024 the neon sign was exhibited at Queens Square, Sydney.[10]

On 14 November 2024 the neon sign was exhibited at the public square, QEII Courts of Law, Brisbane.[11][12]

A short film of the making and public display of the neon sign **2023 Hong Kong Neon - Jimmy Lai in Chains** screened at the BAFTA-qualifying British Urban Film Festival in London on 20 October 2024 and at the Golden Age Cinema, Paramount Pictures building, Sydney on 16 December 2024.[13]

The film won awards at the Berlin Indie Film Festival,[14] the Munich New Wave Short Film Festival,[15] the Rome International Movie Awards [16] and the Accolade Global Film Competition.[17]

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